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ing carried through the late imperial, Langobard and republican times. The remaining two chapters deal with Dante and the social conditions of Florence in his day.

MERRICK WHITCOMB.

Mediæval Rome, from Hildebrand to Clement VIII., 1073-1600.

By WILLIAM MILLER. [The Story of the Nations Series.]
(New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1902. Pp. xiii, 373.)

THE object of the book, as stated in the preface, is to furnish to people who have not time to read the longer works, as Gregorovius, a short history of medieval Rome, the author having especially in mind the numerous British and American visitors of that city. The work is based on the best secondary authorities, no claim to original research being made, except in so far as a thorough familiarity with modern Rome and other places alluded to in the text is concerned.

The extreme difficulty, perhaps impossibility, of giving a satisfactory brief popular account of Rome in the Middle Ages is here illustrated. The question immediately presents itself, what is to be done with the papacy. If we try to consider the city without the papacy its history during that time is, of all considerable Italian cities, the most petty and unprofitable. If we try to get an adequate understanding of papal history we are led far away from Rome, and our short history immediately expands to an impossible length. The present work tries to steer between these two alternatives by giving an account of those events in papal history that happened in or near Rome, and pretty thoroughly neglecting everything else. The result is in the last degree confusing. The uninformed reader can gain no intelligent notion whatever of the investiture contest or the conciliar movement of the fifteenth century, while the kidnapping of Gregory VII., the pageantry at the consecration of Innocent III., and the story of Djem are given much space. Even a matter so locally important as the territorial policy of the popes is treated in no connected and coherent manner. The author is chary of generalizations ; we are given no guiding threads to follow ; he writes like a chronicler recording what has happened from pontificate to pontificate, rarely seeking to show the connection with what goes before and what follows except where there is some supposed resemblance or analogy to something extremely modern. We are left in what was presumably the state of mind of some naïve and rather ignorant contemporary who saw many striking and bloody happenings at Rome, but was much in the dark as to what it was all about. It is a sort of truncated papacy that is given us, where all the more important sources and results of action lie in the portion that has been cut off.

After the papacy, the matter receiving most attention is the history of external material Rome ; to show how Rome as left by the emperors and early barbarians was modified, destroyed, or added to by popes or nobles during the medieval period. Here is shown very full knowledge and careful study on the part of the author, but the practical use of the

book to the prospective visitor of Rome is much lessened by the way in which this material is presented, and perhaps has to be presented, the plan of the book remaining what it is. At the end of the account of each pope who left any important impress on Rome's external appearance is given a rather inchoate summary of the changes made throughout the city during his time. The fact that the buildings, streets, and monuments are not classified or grouped in any way, makes it extremely difficult to follow the history of any individual object; one would have to hunt through the whole book for it, and the index only very partially helps in this matter.

As to some minor matters, one feels at the conclusion of the book that many bloody and tragic details and accounts of ceremonial and pageantry might well have been omitted; they repeat themselves from pontificate to pontificate and century to century until one thoroughly tires of them, and there is a conviction that the author is underrating the calibre of his audience in giving them so much of this and so little intelligent interpretation and explanation. Also his very frequent allusions to present-day matters, brought in as if to enliven the subject and in language verging on the slangy or modern newspaper order but having no valid connection with the matter in hand, certainly add nothing to the force and clearness of the book and vitiate any dignity in its style.

A. B. WHITE.

Edward Plantagenet (Edward I.), the English Justinian or the Making of the Common Law. By EDWARD JENKS. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1902. Pp. xxiv, 360.)

THIS volume sustains the high reputation already gained by the useful "Heroes of the Nations" series. The author apologizes "for the intrusion of a mere lawyer upon a scene so dominated by great historians," because he is unable to "understand how any one but a lawyer can possibly appreciate the true inwardness of Edward's reign." For "the Common Law which came into existence during his lifetime was, and is, the very picture of English national life, the concrete form into which the national spirit crystallizes with the moving centuries." Such an apology, it is to be hoped, will hereafter be unnecessary. Happily it is becoming pretty well recognized that a thorough treatment of institutional history implies a broad knowledge of law; just as an intimate acquaintance with the details of constitutional development is absolutely essential for a scientific study of jurisprudence. Indeed the most original and helpful parts of Mr. Jenks's book are those in which the great statutes of Edward's reign are analyzed and interpreted.

The first three chapters present a rapid but vigorous sketch of European history previous to the year 1250. Of these the first chapter, entitled "The Middle Ages in Europe," deals especially with the origin of feudalism and with the rise, decay, and revival of monastic institutions; the second, with the "Emergence of Modern Europe"; while the third draws a clear picture of "England in the Thirteenth Century," accent-